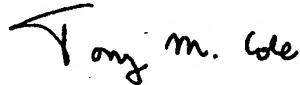


REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment cancels claims 1-17 and adds new claims 18-55. Favorable examination and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully solicited. To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 13-2491 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,



By: _____
Tony M. Cole
Registration No. 43,417

Date: January 22, 2004

Harrity & Snyder, L.L.P.
11240 Waples Mill Road
Suite 300
Fairfax, Virginia 22030
Main: (571) 432-0800
Direct: (386) 575-2713